



January 20, 2015

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Spotlight on Success – Chicagoland Beverage Company

Chicagoland Beverage Company (CBC) is a distributor of coffees, teas, and other non-alcoholic beverages employing about eighteen people in Chicago's Kinzie Industrial Corridor. The firm has been a client of the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago (ICNC) since 2006. Running out of room in its two aging buildings, the company sought assistance from the SBDC at ICNC to secure a Small Business Improvement Fund grant to repair the roof and interior of one building and repave the loading area and parking lot. The Illinois SBDC at ICNC also facilitated access to a New Markets Tax Credits supported loan to construct a third building connecting the two existing into one facility, greatly improving operations. In total, Chicagoland Beverage is investing about \$900,000 into these facility upgrades. When completed, the project will create approximately five new jobs. CCO & CFO Sean Story said, "The SBDC at ICNC has been integral in helping CBC obtain SBIF funding, class 6(b) Eligibility and New Market Tax Credit funding. All of which have helped us fund our new addition, perform capital improvements to our existing project, and most importantly, given us the capacity to remain in our existing location and continue to grow and expand our operations." Without the SBDC at ICNC assistance Chicagoland Beverage may have sought a new home leaving the buildings to crumble and taking its jobs out of Chicago.

Maximizing Neoserra – 2015 Scorecard Graphs & Total Client Hours

2015 Scorecard graphs are not yet prepared and you will see the 2014 graphs until they are replaced with the 2015 Versions.

The Scorecard Graph only counts advising sessions marked "Reportable" when entered into Neoserra. You may see a discrepancy between the Total Client Hour totals on the graph and if you run the SBDC Program Review Report or an advising filter because of this difference. Please contact Tom Becker or your Network Coordinator if you have any questions.

Valued Resources – SBDCNet

SBDCNet now offers a twice monthly Lunch-n-Learn online series for SBDC Network advisors that explains the breadth and depth of information available on this web site. Each 30 minute session is limited to 25 participants. The Illinois SBDC Lead Center suggests that advisors take advantage of SBDCNet services. Please register using Eventbrite on www.sbdcnnet.org.

Network News and Moves

As is customary with the change of leadership in the Governor's Office several members of DCEO leadership have recently departed the Agency. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors and thank them for their ongoing support of the Illinois SBDC Network and EIT programs.

As leadership positions in DCEO are filled we will keep the Illinois SBDC Network up to date in this column and through other communications. We are looking forward to working with the Governor's new leadership team and demonstrating how the Illinois SBDC Network and the EIT programs provide tremendous value and return for Illinois entrepreneurs, small businesses and taxpayers throughout the state. Keep doing great things for Illinois.

SBA Small Business Advocate Newsletter

The SBA Office of Advocacy has released the [January 2015 issue of The Small Business Advocate newsletter](#). This edition features a roundup of the new leadership of the Congressional small business committees. The message from Chief Counsel for Advocacy Winslow Sargeant details his accomplishments during his tenure at the Office of Advocacy. In addition, a recent SBREFA panel on infectious diseases submits its final report to OSHA. The newsletter can be found on Advocacy's website [here](#).

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The **WEEKLY CONNECTION** is distributed by the Illinois SBDC and DCEO Office of Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Technology each Monday to members of the DCEO Illinois SBDC Network to provide the service delivery partners with regular updates on small business issues, opportunities and resources. You may send any information to share with the Illinois SBDC Network to Tom.Becker@illinois.gov. Please feel free to forward this update to other interested resource providers and key stakeholders.

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